

## **Michigan Soldiers and Sailors Monument**

Cadillac Square at Woodward.

Local	v	<b>1974</b>
State	v	2/17/65
State Marker		
National	v	5/31/84



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### **Historic overview:**

The Soldiers and Sailors Monument is one of the first Civil War Memorials in the United States. The monument was designed by the sculptor Randolph Rogers in 1872. Much controversy went into the final decision of where the monument was to be placed. Some of the Monument's Association suggestions included "a point where the monument will never be closely surrounded by high buildings which would in a great measure obstruct its view" and a "principal thoroughfare" location. Finally the monument was to be located at Campus Martius, at the intersections of Woodward Avenue, Michigan Avenue, Monroe Avenue, Fort Street and Cadillac Square. This spot is said to be where Union Forces from Michigan left to fight in the Civil War.

The monument is comprised mostly of granite with three tiers of bronze statues and bas-reliefs. Eagles sit on pedestals at the base guarding the statue and symbolically mourning the deceased. The first tier of statues represents the then for branches of the United States Armed Forces, Infantry, Artillery, Cavalry, and Navy. Four life-size female statues representing Victory, Union, History and Emancipation sit at the second tier. Most importantly at the top of the statue stands the representation of the Michiganian embodiment. Plaques dedicated to key figures of the Civil War such as President Abraham Lincoln and General Ulysses Grant and national and state seals are also found throughout the monument.

Current plans are to relocate the statue 140' southwest of its current location to a new Campus Martius Park. This new park will become a central location where people can meet, relax, eat and take in the surrounding gardens, fountains and works of art.

